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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

President Johnson today named six outstanding Federal career officials as winners of the 1967 President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service, the highest honor that can be conferred on a career employee of the Federal Government.

Recipients of the Award are:

Myrl E. Alexander, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons,  
Department of Justice.

Arthur E. Hess, Director, Bureau of Health Insurance, Social  
Security Administration, Department of Health, Education, and  
Welfare.

Sherman Kent, Director of National Estimates and Chairman of  
the Board of National Estimates, Central Intelligence Agency.

C. Payne Lucas, Deputy Director, Africa Region, Peace Corps.

William J. Porter, Ambassador to the Republic of Korea,  
Department of State.

Carl F. Romney, Seismologist, Department of the Air Force.

The awards, each consisting of a gold medal and a citation, will be  
presented at ceremonies to be held early next month.

This year's honored career officials have brought illustrious and far-  
reaching contributions to the fields of rehabilitation of criminal offenders,  
health insurance for the aged, national security, Peace Corps assistance  
to developing countries, civilian aid in South Vietnam, and scientific  
research.

On naming them, the President said: "These six remarkable men are  
modern pioneers. We live today in a world of such rapid change in  
science, international affairs, and socio-economic patterns that  
traditional, inherited knowledge is no longer sufficient to solve urgent  
problems. We must seek new answers from people who have sought and  
mastered new knowledge, from people unafraid to voice constructive  
discontent with tried but no longer true methods, from people with the  
energy and the initiative to break through the long accepted boundaries  
of action. Such are the six selected for this high civilian honor, and we  
are both fortunate and proud to have them in our Nation's public service.

"We are fortunate and proud, also, to have in the Federal Government  
the kind of civilian career service that can attract persons of such out-  
standing excellence and afford scope and opportunity for the exercise of  
their superlative talents. In honoring these men we recognize anew the  
extraordinary qualities of skill, energy, and dedication that are to be  
found in the career ranks of the Federal service."

The 1967 Award recipients join an elite group of only 46 persons so  
honored since the program's inception in 1957.

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Selections for the Award were made by the President after review of recommendations from an advisory board comprised of John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (Chairman); W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary of Labor; Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, Under Secretary of State; Cyrus R. Vance, (former) Deputy Secretary of Defense; and Donald F. Hornig, Director of the Office of Science and Technology. John W. Macy, Jr., Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, is Executive Secretary of the board.

Citation highlights and biographical data on the 1967 Award recipients follow:

MYRL E. ALEXANDER, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, "a progressive and farsighted administrator," has "pioneered, developed, and led to reality more effective methods of treatment in correctional institutions, which have increased the offender's capacity to reenter community life as a responsible citizen." Mr. Alexander, 57, has had 33 years of Federal service. Beginning in 1931 as Warden's Assistant at the Federal Penitentiary in Atlanta, he progressed within the Bureau of Prisons to the position of Assistant Director of the Bureau in 1947. From 1961 to 1964 he was Professor of Correctional Administration at Southern Illinois University, and in 1964 he returned to the Department of Justice as Director of the Bureau of Prisons.

Under his direction, the Bureau's emphasis on community-based rehabilitation programs has provided a whole new outlook for Federal corrections and has already been emulated by several State systems. He has been the leading U.S. representative to international organizations and conferences on prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, a frequent contributor to professional journals, and special consultant to several State correctional systems. A native of Dayton, Ohio, he is a graduate of Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana.

ARTHUR E. HESS, Director of the Bureau of Health Insurance of the Social Security Administration, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "organized and launched, in record time and with remarkable success, the complicated and far-reaching Medicare program." Mr. Hess, 51, began his 28-year career with the Social Security Board (now Social Security Administration) in 1939, in the pioneer days of the Federal program. Advancing with the growth of the program, he became the organizer and first director of social security disability operations in 1954, and in 1965 he assumed the task of advance planning for Medicare and has carried it into a highly successful operation. A man of extraordinary energy and limitless good sense, he has gained the cooperation and participation of the professional and governmental interests essential to the success of these complex and extensive programs. He was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, graduated from Princeton University, and holds the LL.B. degree from the University of Maryland.

SHERMAN KENT, Director of National Estimates and Chairman of the Board of National Estimates, Central Intelligence Agency, "a distinguished scholar and creative pioneer in the theory and practice of foreign intelligence," has been "an inspiring leader in the intelligence community and a wise counselor to the highest officials of the Government."

Dr. Kent, 63, has had a total of 21 years in the Federal service. He came into the Government from the faculty of Yale University, and from 1941 to 1947 he was in the Office of Strategic Services, in intelligence work at the Department of State, and on the faculty of the National War College. In 1947 he returned to Yale as Professor of History, and in 1951 he accepted

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his present position with the Central Intelligence Agency, where for 16 years he has been responsible for the unique institution of the Board of National Estimates and its staff. Under his leadership this Board has produced over 1,000 national intelligence estimates, and the system has grown from its experimental beginning into a highly responsive operation in which the resources of the entire intelligence community are brought to bear on critical questions relating to national security. He was born in Chicago, and holds the Ph. B and Ph. D degrees from Yale University.

C. PAYNE LUCAS, Deputy Director, Africa Region, Peace Corps, an "inspired and inspiring leader of Peace Corps Volunteers," has been "a vital force in guiding Volunteers and staff to new levels of accomplishment and friendship in the developing countries of Africa." Mr. Lucas, 33, has been with the Peace Corps since May 1962. He was Associate Representative and Deputy Director in Togo until 1964, and Peace Corps Director in Niger from 1964 to 1966.

He established a working relationship with the President of Niger that has been described as "unique in Peace Corps annals." As Deputy Director, Africa Region, he has infected the whole agency with his enthusiasm and drive to make the United States more effective in assisting the developing world. Born in Spring Hope, North Carolina, he received his BA degree from Maryland State College and MA from American University. He is the second youngest person ever to receive the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service.

WILLIAM J. PORTER, Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Department of State, "pioneered in unifying United States civilian aid programs in South Vietnam and greatly increased their effectiveness in improving the lot of the Vietnamese people in the villages and rural areas." Mr. Porter, 52, has been with the Department of State for 30 years and has served with distinction in a variety of very sensitive and complex assignments, notably as the first Ambassador to Algiers during the early stages of that country's independence, and as Deputy Ambassador for the last year and a half in South Vietnam. Entering the Foreign Service in 1937, he became a Foreign Service Officer in 1947, and served in several Middle East posts. Following three years in Washington as Director, Office of North African Affairs, he was assigned in 1960 to Algiers.

As Deputy Ambassador to South Vietnam from September 1965 to May 1967, he directed the formation of, and supervised, an organization combining into one effort the programs of the U.S. civilian agencies to give concerted support for South Vietnam's development and pacification programs. A native of Stalybridge, England, Mr. Porter was naturalized in 1936. He attended Thibodeau College of Business Administration and Boston College.

CARL F. ROMNEY, Seismologist, Department of the Air Force, "an eminent scientist in the field of seismology. . . has made outstanding contributions to the development of a control system for underground nuclear tests and thereby has enhanced international cooperation in the interest of world peace." Dr. Romney, 43, joined the Department of the Air Force in 1955 and has held progressively responsible scientific positions concerned with seismology.

He has served as technical adviser to the U.S. representatives in negotiations of the Test Ban Treaty; as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Geneva Conference of Experts, 1958; and as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Conference on Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapons Tests, 1959 and 1960. The author of numerous technical papers on seismic effects of underground explosions, his technical contributions and his superlative knowledge and technical judgment have earned him a reputation as a leading international authority in his field. A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, he received his BS degree in meteorology from California Institute of Technology and his Ph. D from the University of California.